


09-29-04

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY "EXPRESS MAIL" (37 CFR 1.10) Applicant(s): Masato Mizukami et al.			Docket No. 14321.57	
Application No. 10/648,822	Filing Date 08/26/2003	Examiner PRASAD, CHANDRIKA	Customer No. 022913	Group Art Unit 2839


 OPTICAL CONNECTOR PLUG, OPTICAL CONNECTOR PLUG CONNECTING METHOD, OPTICAL FIBER CROSS-CONNECTION APPARATUS, OPTICAL FIBER CORD RETRACTING METHOD, OPTICAL FIBER CORD RETRACTION DEVICE, AND OPTICAL CONNECTOR PLUG ALIGNMENT BLOCK

I hereby certify that the following correspondence:

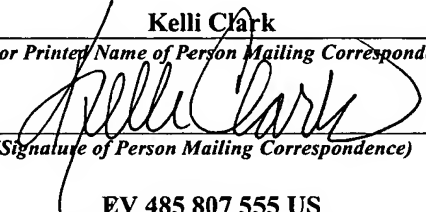
Transmittal Letter (1 pg, in triplicate); Response to Restriction Requirement and Election of Species Requirement (2 pgs); postcard; and Certificate of Express Mailing Label No. EV 485 807 555 US.

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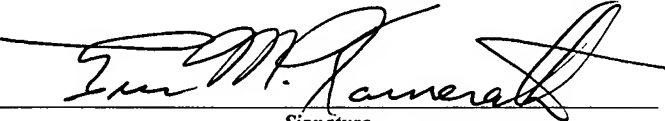
September 27, 2004
(Date)

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AMENDMENT TRANSMITTAL LETTER (Large Entity)				Docket No. 14321.57	
Applicant(s): Masato Mizukami et al.					
Application No. 10/648,822	Filing Date 08/26/2003	Examiner PRASAD, CHANDRIKA	Customer No. 022913	Group Art Unit 2839	Confirmation No. 4584
Invention: OPTICAL CONNECTOR PLUG, OPTICAL CONNECTOR PLUG CONNECTING METHOD, OPTICAL FIBER CROSS-CONNECTING APPARATUS, OPTICAL FIBER CORD RETRACTING METHOD, OPTICAL FIBER CORD RETRACTION DEVICE, AND OPTICAL CONNECTOR PLUG ALIGNMENT					
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 30%;"> <p>BLOCK</p> <p>Transmitted herewith is an amendment in the above-identified application.</p> <p>The fee has been calculated and is transmitted as shown below.</p> </div> <div style="width: 60%; text-align: center;"> <p>SEP 27 2004</p> <p>COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:</p> </div> </div>					
CLAIMS AS AMENDED					
	CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	HIGHEST # PREV. PAID FOR	NUMBER EXTRA CLAIMS PRESENT	RATE	ADDITIONAL FEE
TOTAL CLAIMS	19 -	20 =	0 x	\$18.00	\$0.00
INDEP. CLAIMS	8 -	8 =	0 x	\$86.00	\$0.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					\$0.00
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT					\$0.00
<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No additional fee is required for amendment.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Please charge Deposit Account No. _____ in the amount of _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of _____ to cover the filing fee is enclosed.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 23-3178</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038.</p> <p>WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.</p>					
 Signature ERIC M. KAMERATH Registration No. 46,081 Customer No. 022913			Dated: September 27, 2004		
CC:			<p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" [37 CFR 1.8(a)] on _____.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Date)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____ Signature of Person Mailing Correspondence</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____ Typed or Printed Name of Person Mailing Correspondence</p>		

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO.: EV 485 807 555 US

PATENT APPLICATION

Docket No. 14531.57



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Masato Mizukami et al.

Serial No.: 10/648,822

Filed: August 26, 2003

Conf No.: 4584

) Art Unit
) 2839

For: OPTICAL CONNECTOR PLUG, OPTICAL
CONNECTOR PLUG CONNECTING METHOD,
OPTICAL FIBER CROSS-CONNECTING
APPARATUS, OPTICAL FIBER CORD
RETRACTING METHOD, OPTICAL FIBER
CORD RETRACTION DEVICE, AND OPTICAL
CONNECTOR PLUG ALIGNMENT BLOCK

Examiner: Chandrika Prasad

Customer No.: 022913

Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated August 27, 2004, Applicants elect Group III, consisting of claims 8-10 and the species corresponding to Figures 1-7, with traverse.

Claims 8-10 are directed to a cross-connect apparatus that includes a connector plug, a retracting device, and an alignment block. Claims 1-5 (Group I) are directed to a connector plug; claims 13-18 (Group V) are directed to a retracting device; and claim 19 (Group VI) is directed

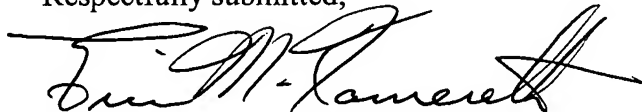
an alignment block. Method claims 6-7 (Group II) and method claims 11-12 (Group IV) generally correspond to the connector plug claims and retracting device claims, respectively.

Applicants respectfully submit that the restriction requirement is improper because searching all claims in one application does not represent a "serious burden" on the Examiner. MPEP § 803 ("Restriction – When Proper"). In conducting a search for the elected claims 8-10 of Group III, the Examiner will necessarily need to search for the limitations present in those claims, including the recited connector plug, retracting device /means, and alignment block. Although the recited limitations in claims 8-10 are not necessarily identical with those recited in claims 1-5, 13-18, and 19, Applicants respectfully submit that they are sufficiently close in subject matter that searching claims 1-5, 13-18, and 19 with claims 8-10 does not represent a serious burden, as required in section 803 of the MPEP, particularly given the relatively small number of pending claims. A similar argument can be made for the remaining method claims, claims 6-7 and claims 11-12, since they are directed to an optical connector plug connecting method and an optical fiber cord retracting method, respectively. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the restriction requirement should be withdrawn, or at a minimum broadened to include all of the device claims (Group I: claims 1-5, Group III: claims 8-10, Group V: claims 13-18, and Group VI: claim 19).

Applicants note that the limitations in claims 1-10, which includes all claims making reference to a connector plug, are generic with respect to the two species (Figures 1-7 and Figure 8) identified in the restriction requirement.

Dated this 27th day of September 27, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



ERIC M. KAMERATH
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 46,081
Customer No. 022913